

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217507

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JA, VS

SUBJECT: KYODO INTERVIEW OF PRG OFFICIAL

REFS: A. TOKYO 12758; B. SAIGON 12736

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN EMBASSY'S INTENTION TO INQUIRE
AT FONOFF CONCERNING KYODO INTERVIEW OF PRG OFFICIALS.
WE ALSO CONCUR WITH EMBASSY SAIGON THAT INQUIRY SHOULD BE
AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL (E.G., DIVISION CHIEF).

2. AFTER INQUIRING ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING KYODO
INTERVIEW EMBOFF SHOULD COMMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. GIVEN NATURE OF THANH'S SENIOR POSITION IN PRG, IT IS
NOT UNEXPECTED THAT HE HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF JAPAN VISIT
TO ADVANCE PRG'S POLITICAL OBJECTIVES.

B. INTERVIEWS BY RESPECTED NEWS AGENCIES SUCH AS KYODO,
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WHICH ARE NORMAL DURING SUCH VISITS, INEVITABLY ENHANCE
THE PRG'S PRESTIGE IN JAPAN AND INTERNATIONALLY IN A WAY

WHICH IS NOT IN EITHER U.S. OR GOJ INTEREST.

C. AS SUCH INCIDENTS CAN BEST BE PREVENTED BY AVOIDING
POLITICAL VISITS, WE HOPE THAT, IN SCRUPULOUSLY MAIN-
TAINING ITS POLICY OF DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN "POLITICAL"
AND "NON POLITICAL" VISITS, GOJ WILL RECOGNIZE THAT IN
MANY CASES THIS DISTINCTION IS DIFFICULT TO DRAW.
PRESENT VISIT HAS BEEN INSTRUCTIVE IN THIS REGARD.

3. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES FONOFF'S THOROUGH BRIEFINGS
ON PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH DRV AND GOJ DETERMINA-
TION NOT TO YIELD TO HANOI'S DEMANDS CONCERNING PRG.
IN MAKING INQUIRY, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONVEY DE-
PARTMENT'S APPRECIATION FOR THIS. MAW

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